



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

*100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900*

*Boston, MA 02114-2119*

Mitt Romney  
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ellen Roy Herzfelder  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1181  
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Joe O'Keefe  
(617) 626-1126

### **HERZFELDER ANNOUNCES WATER QUALITY GRANTS FOR SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITIES**

Secretary of Environmental Affairs Ellen Roy Herzfelder announced today the award of nearly \$62,000 in grants to projects based in South Shore communities under the Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution (CNPS) Grant Program. The recipients are the Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research (\$16,712), Massachusetts Bay Estuary Association (\$10,000), and North & South Rivers Watershed Association (\$35,000).

"The CNPS grant program provides funding to local projects to address critical water quality problems," Secretary Roy Herzfelder said. "The grant program allows us to assist public and nonprofit organizations with broader efforts to investigate and manage nonpoint source pollution that is entering our coastal wetlands, estuaries, and beaches."

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollutants include excess fertilizers, oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff, sediment from improperly managed construction sites, salt from irrigation practices, and bacteria and nutrient loads from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems. It is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, depositing them into coastal waters, lakes, rivers, wetlands, and underground sources of drinking water.

NPS pollution can be controlled through several measures, including: reducing fertilizer and insecticide use on agricultural and residential lands; reducing or eliminating oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff; controlling sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding stream banks; minimizing salt and sand use during roadway winterizing; and controlling bacteria deposits and nutrient loads from livestock, pet waste, boat sewage, and faulty septic systems.

Grants issued under the grant program serve to implement portions of the Massachusetts Coastal Nonpoint Source Control Program. This year, 10 grants will be awarded, totaling approximately \$215,000. Information on these grants will be presented at scheduled regional

events. The following funded projects announced today will serve the CNPS program's goal to improve coastal water quality by reducing or eliminating nonpoint sources of pollution:

- Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research's \$16,712 grant will be used to assess, identify, and characterize nonpoint source pollution targeting bacteria and nitrates/nitrites within a sub-watershed of the Gulf River in Scituate and Cohasset. The project will include a student-centered water quality assessment, analysis and research of NPS pollution control in the Gulf River, and an on-going public education and outreach program (including a speaker series, homeowner education tools, and press articles).
- The Massachusetts Bay Estuary Association was awarded a \$10,000 grant to conduct a regionally specific baseline survey of Massachusetts Bays residents regarding stormwater, building upon previous outreach through their *Storm Windows* program – a mass media/advertising campaign that "markets" stormwater as a significant problem that can be addressed by individuals. This study will involve all of the South Shore's coastal communities.
- The North & South Rivers Watershed Association was awarded \$35,000 to enhance its *Greenscapes* program, which teaches consumers how to have healthy landscapes without using excess fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and water. Phase II of the project will offer additional services to further the mission of the program, such as offering a citizen workshop series focused on stormwater management and lawn maintenance and a workshop series for landscape professionals focused on integrated pest management, groundwater protection, and other issues. Weymouth, Kingston, Hanover, Marshfield and Plymouth are special partners of the Association for this study.

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The Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office (CZM) anticipates that it will solicit applications for the next grant round in September 2005. Communities that are interested in developing a proposal for the next grant round are strongly encouraged to contact the CNPS Program Coordinator, or CZM regional staff:

CNPS Program Coordinator: Julie Ann Conroy: (617) 626-1235.

CZM Regional Offices:

- (978) 281-3972 for the North Shore Office in Gloucester.
- (617) 626-1174 for the Boston Harbor Office in Boston.
- (781) 545-8026, x 209 for the South Shore Office in Scituate.
- (508) 946-8990 for the South Coastal Office in Lakeville.
- (508) 362-1760 for the Cape Cod and Islands Office in Barnstable.